

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release
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Zero Tolerance Roundtable Meeting

Professional, College, and High School Athletic Representatives to Discuss Eradicating Steroid Use after Committee Release of GAO Report on Obtaining Steroids over the Internet

**What: House Government Reform Committee Zero Tolerance Roundtable
Media Availability**

When: Thursday, November 3, 2005

**Instructions: Media Availability will take place at approximately 2:30pm
Check-in will be in the hallway outside of Room 2154
Please RSVP to Rob White or Drew Crockett**

****Roundtable itself to begin at 1:00pm****

****Session closed to media until 2:30pm to encourage open discussion****

Where: Room 2154, Rayburn House Office Building

**Who: Chairman Tom Davis, Government Reform Committee
Kathy Behrens, NBA
Larry Bowers, U.S. Anti-Doping Agency
Abe Frank, NCAA
Ray Garibaldi, Parent of Steroid Victim
Geoff Gleason, Partnership for Drug-Free America
Marty Gold, NFL
Dr. Gary Green, MLB
Barnaby Harkins, NBA
Catherine Harnett, DEA
Jeff Jones, American University Basketball Coach
Brenda Marrero, Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation
Frank Marrero, Efrain Anthony Marrero Foundation
Cindy Miner, National Institute on Drug Abuse**

Fernando Montes, Taylor Hooton Foundation
Peter Sirh, MLB Players Association
Dr. Gary Wadler, NYU School of Medicine
Dan Wexler, National Federation of State High School Associations
Mary Wilfert, NCAA
Ben Zelenko, NHL Players Association

Background:

House Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) will begin the media availability by highlighting the frightening findings of a Government Accountability Office (GAO) report on the prevalence of steroids over the internet. Zero Tolerance participants will then discuss plans for a public education campaign against steroid use and how to create an environment that rejects steroid use as a means to enhance athletic capabilities – especially given GAO’s new findings on the ease with which steroids can be obtained.

As part of a new structure, the Zero Tolerance Roundtable will be divided into subcommittees in order to foster relationships among Zero Tolerance participants outside of the roundtables. Participants in each subcommittee are expected to meet at least once before the next meeting.

Those scheduled to attend Thursday’s meeting will include representatives from professional sports leagues and unions, NCAA, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, the National Federation of State High School Associations, the Partnership for a Drug Free America, medical experts, parents, and coaches.

Zero Tolerance was created at the Government Reform Committee’s March 17, 2005, hearing "Restoring Faith in America's Pastime: Evaluating Major League Baseball's Efforts to Eradicate Steroid Use," to gather information, foster discussion, and provide recommendations on how to address the growing problem of steroid abuse by youth. 500,000 high school students – nearly triple the number from 10 years earlier – have tried steroids, according to a 2003 survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Other studies have detailed steroid use by even younger children, some focusing on the use of steroids by young girls as a way of improving their body image. Thursday’s meeting is the second in a series of Zero Tolerance roundtables dedicated toward reversing this growing trend.

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